

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:LBLAINGEN

NEA/RA:TGRANT (SUBS)

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S/NM:NWARNER (INFO)

S/CPR:HDAVIS (INFO)

IO/UNP:JWASHBURN (INFO)

S/S-O: RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 159030

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SMUGGLING

1. SUMMARY: ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN CALLED IN NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL JULY 22 TO INFORM HIM OF OUR CONCERN OVER ABUSE OF THE NEPALESE DIPLOMATIC POUCH FROM KATHMANDU TO NEW YORK FOR SMUGGLING OF HASHISH INTO THE U.S. KHANAL STATED GON COMPLETELY PREPARED COOPERATE ON ANY CASES INVOLVING SUCH ABUSE BUT MAINTAINED THAT POLICY ON POUCH USE WAS VERY STRICT AND THAT NEITHER EMBASSY NOR PERMANENT MISSION WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WRONG-DOING TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. IN RESPONSE KHANAL'S QUESTIONS, BRIEF DISCUSSION OF RECENT EVENTS IN SUB-CONTINENT AND POSSIBLE US DELEGATION TO CORONATION ALSO TOOK PLACE. END SUMMARY.

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2. LAINGEN FIRST EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION WHICH KHANAL AND GON HAD SHOWN ON CASE INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AIR SHIPMENT OF HASHISH TO NEPALESE PERMANENT MISSION TO UN. HE WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT INFLUENTIAL NEPALESE HAD UTILIZED THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH FROM KATHMANDU TO NEW YORK FOR HASHISH SMUGGLING. CITING OUR WORLDWIDE CONCERN THAT ANY CHANNELS FOR ENTRY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS BE CLOSED,

HE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN THAT THIS BE STOPPED AND PREVENTED FROM RECURRING. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO DRAMATIZE CASE, HE REMINDED KHANAL OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN NEPAL SHOULD THIS INFORMATION BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. REQUESTING THAT KHANAL ADVISE GON OF OUR DEEP CONCERN, LAINGEN ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE OUR HOPE THAT GON WILL ENACT BASIC NARCOTICS LEGISLATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. PREFACING HIS REMARKS WITH COMMENT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE FEBRUARY CASE, KHANAL SAID GON WAS VERY STRICT ON CONTROLLING POUCH USE AND THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT IT WAS FREE FROM MISUSE. HE SAID EVERYONE IN "MISSION" HAD BEEN WARNED AND ASSURED LAINGEN GON WAS "COMPLETELY PREPARED TO COOPERATE" SHOULD ANY REPORTS OF SPECIFIC ABUSES COME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. KHANAL ADDED HE HAD FROM TIME TO TIME INFORMED GON OF OUR CONCERN ON NARCOTICS ISSUE AND HAD EVEN CITED TURKEY AS AN EXAMPLE NEPAL SHOULD AVOID. HE ASSERTED GON POLICY WAS TO STOP NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BUT HOPED US WOULD KEEP MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE AND UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS CREATED FOR SOME NEPALESE FARMERS.

4. KHANAL ASKED ABOUT CURRENT USG ATTITUDES TOWARD NEPAL'S NEIGHBORS AND EVENTS IN THE SUBSONTINENT. IN RESPONSE TO HIS SPECIFIC CONCERN ABOUT CHOU EN-LAI'S HEALTH AND STATE OF EVENTS IN CHINA INCLUDING POSSIBILITIES FOR CHINA/USSR CONFLICT, LAINGEN SUGGESTED WE WOULD TRY TO SET UP A BRIEFING FOR HIM BY CHINA DESK.

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5. LAINGEN SAID HE SAW NO PARTICULAR CHANGE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA. INDIA APPEARED PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CHINESE OVERTURES BUT HAD NOT GONE BEYOND THAT. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS MAY BE FURTHER POSTPONED BY FAILURE OF BHUTTO VISIT TO DACCA TO BRING ABOUT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH.

6. LAINGEN SAID SECRETARY STILL HOPED VISIT INDIA AT SOME TIME BUT NO DATES HAD BEEN SET. TRIP WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH.

7. KHANAL REITERATED HIS INTEREST IN LEARNING ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR DELEGATION TO CORONATION. WE SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION BUT THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY WE WOULD HAVE ANY EARLY DECISION. KHANAL SAID IT APPEARED TO HIM FROM MFA CORRESPONDENCE THAT GON HAD RECEIVED SOME INDICATIONS FROM OTHER

COUNTRIES AS TO PROBABLE DELEGATIONS BUT THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFICS. KISSINGER

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